



Your 1L Checklist

Here is some practical advice, tips, and guidance to help get your first year of law school off to a great start.

Technology + Tools

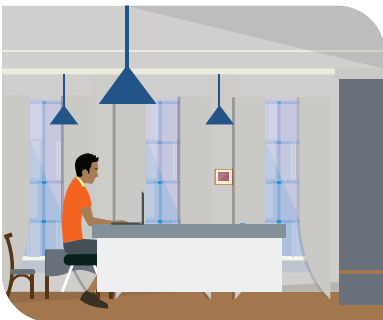
Back up everything to protect your hard work

Your laptop may feel like a trusty sidekick, but it can crash or go missing, resulting in your notes and outlines being permanently lost. Creating a system for naming and storing your files is essential. Schedule automatic backups to give yourself peace of mind.

Pro tip: If you have a West Academic or BARBRI account, tons of your go-to resources for law school success are in our new Learning Hub.



Get Started



Study Tips

Pick the right study spot

Set up a comfortable and distraction-free environment that puts you in the best frame of mind to stay focused, alert, and motivated while reading, briefing, outlining, and preparing for class.

Pro tip: Check out the [West Academic Study Aids Collection](#) which offers over 700 trusted study aids, audiobooks, and lectures, plus interactive practice questions. Study how you learn best.

Create a solid routine to stay on track

By finding your rhythm early on, you'll stay organized and make the best use of your time. Establish a schedule for briefing and reviewing your notes, making sure to include time for self-care and connecting with friends and family.

Pro tip: Use BARBRI's [Resource Center](#) to stay ahead of the curve with 1L advice written by experts and peers, like: [First Year of Law School Reflections and Advice](#). Expert tip, check out the [BARBRI Legal Handbook](#) to get the most important information you need to know during your 1L year.



Unlock the Guide

Outline early to avoid playing catch-up later

Start outlining your notes within the first couple of weeks of the semester – even if you are unsure of the best way to do it. When it's time to study for finals, you'll be ready instead of racing to catch up on outlining. For tips on law school notetaking and outlining, visit barbri.com/law-school-outlines

Pro tip: Enroll in [BARBRI 1L Success](#) for free and get online, on-demand video lectures, multiple-choice questions, and practice essays for all your 1L subjects. Expert tip, watch the lectures before or after class to help strengthen your outlines.

Enroll for Free



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1L grades create a strong foundation

Law professors award high marks to students who demonstrate mastery of concepts, and they aren't afraid to call on unsuspecting students, i.e. the cold call. Take advantage of professor and TA office hours to ensure you understand the material.

Pro tip: Pair your lessons with BARBRI's [Cold Call Companion](#) to help you critically analyze and brief a case, distill the main points of law, prepare for impromptu questions, and achieve good grades.

Begin reviewing for finals

Revisit your previous outlines to review, refine, and cement your understanding of the law concepts you've learned so far and visit barbri.com/law-school-final-exam-tips for more ways to ace your final exams. Don't forget to use [BARBRI 1L Success](#). It's free and can be a lifesaver for your Civ Pro (who doesn't love Dean Rich Freer), Con Law, Contracts, Crim Law, Real Property, and Torts classes.



Chart an early bar exam action plan

Did you know that many states offer a reduced fee to students who apply for the bar exam during their 1L or 2L year? Start by checking pre-registration requirements and discounts for the state in which you will be taking the bar exam. Stay up to date on early filing deadlines so you can fulfill all necessary requirements and possibly save some money.

Pro tip: For more information about the bar exam, visit barbri.com/about-the-bar-exam.

Careers + Networking

Take time to make connections

Networking is essential, even as a 1L student. Take time to connect with others for potential job opportunities, law school mentoring, letters of recommendation, and real-world guidance. Get to know your professors, fellow students, and alumni. Not sure where to start? Join the [@BARBRI](#) LinkedIn community to find your footing and be a part of the conversation.

Pro Tip: Up your professional social networking game with our guide to [Building Your Personal Brand and Law Student LinkedIn Profile](#) and check out other great resources on [Law School Networking](#) in our [Resource Center](#).



Use career services to develop a solid job strategy

Everything you do from day one can impact how you navigate potential job opportunities. Use your school's Career Services office to discuss your aspirations and chart your best path to a rewarding legal career.

Pro Tip: Not sure where to start? Visit our Resource Center for more 1L insights and avenues for success.

Apply early to secure a summer job

Make the most of your 1L summer — and enhance your resume for 2L recruiters — by marking your calendar for submitting internship applications. All schools are different, but most take applications December through May. Keep in mind that judges tend to hire early while government agencies and non-profits have later deadlines.

Pro Tip: Access resources like [Law School Summer Job Interview Tips](#) and [1L Law School Summer Internship Takeaways](#) for inspiration.



Sign up for on-campus interviews

OCIs are typically invitation-only but aren't always based purely on academics or seniority. Proactively sign up to put your best foot forward, because most law firms are looking to hire candidates with ambition, personality, and character.

Pro Tip: Get a jump start with this essential [OCI checklist](#).



Use extracurriculars to enhance your skills

As you look toward 2L year, use extracurriculars such as Law Review, specialty journals, Moot Court, and Law Clinics to boost your resume, enhance your skills, demonstrate your work ethic, and stand out to employers.

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